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July 4, 1991

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

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Arkansas Baptist



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Vol. 90, No. 14

July 4, 1991



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6 Credit abuse

The easiest way to get your family into money trouble is to abuse credit. Financial advisors point out that easy credit tempts a person to buy more than he really needs and reduces his inclination to shop around for the best price. The third in a series on money management notes the danger signals and practical methods of recovery for those already in credit trouble.

12 Keeping the promise

In an effort based on faith, the board of trustees of Arkansas Childrens' Homes and Family Ministries will open the Promise House, the El Dorado-based home for unwed mothers, ahead of schedule in mid-September.

15 Tremendous challenge

Jimmy Millikin took office as president of Williams Baptist College on July 1 and is excited about the new challenge. Millikin has three major objectives he wishes to accomplish while in office: to change the perception of the institution, provide for people, and expand programs.

17 Draper nominated

James T. Draper Jr. will be nominated to become the eighth president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. A 93-member board of trustees will meet July 18 in a special called meeting to consider the nomination of Draper, 55, pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, and former Southern Baptist Convention president.

19 Steps forward cited

A covenant between faculty and trustees may represent the "best possible hope for the future" of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a report from the accrediting commission of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada concluded.

23 Cholera spread threatens

Since the cholera epidemic broke out in Peru in late January, 212,000 cases have been reported in South America. With world health officials warning the disease could spread to Central America, Baptists in Guatemala are meeting with government officials to find out what they can do to help.

Cover story

(BP) photo / Warren Johnson



'Crossover Japan' 20

Rain didn't stop volunteer Andrew Wade from distributing handbills at a Japanese train station. Wade was part of the "Crossover Japan" evangelistic thrust that lead 345 Japanese to Jesus Christ. The May 20-June 3 effort involved 139 Southern Baptists from 20 states who worked in 41 Japanese churches and mission congregations.

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Accreditation concerns

J. EVERETT SNEED



During the past few months, some have called for Southern Baptists to do their own accreditation of colleges and seminaries. Two arguments have been made: (1) that accrediting associations might prevent our colleges and seminaries from maintaining a distinctly Christian and Baptist perspective; and (2) that the accrediting association would prevent our institutions from reflecting the posture of most Southern Baptists. A careful investigation of accrediting associations shows that accrediting associations do nothing in the process of accreditation to limit an institution from effectively maintaining its Christian distinctiveness. However, loss of accreditation by traditional accrediting agencies would make it difficult, if not impossible, for individuals to obtain employment and to do graduate work in non-Baptist colleges or seminaries.

Some have argued that the most important accreditation, particularly for a religious school, is the accreditation given by God. Certainly, we as Baptists want God's blessing to rest upon each college, university, or seminary we sponsor. However, there should be no conflict between an institution receiving the blessing of God and being of the highest quality.

Often there is a misconception as to how accrediting associations are formed. They are formed by educational institutions themselves. These educational institutions set up standards by which they measure themselves. By mutual consent the schools determine what is an acceptable quality of work and the appropriate methods of training students. Regional accrediting bodies have "commissioners" which determine these criteria. "Commissioners" are individuals selected from the schools which the accrediting association serves.

After the standards have been set, the agency then develops an organized structure and employs a staff. Schools accredited by the association are visited by these "commissioners."

There are basically two types of accrediting associations: regional and specialized. The two best known regional accrediting associations are the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Almost all Southern Baptist colleges, universities, and seminaries are related to one of these two groups.

Regional accrediting associations offer accreditation to all institutions within a specific geographical area. This includes elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, seminaries, and preparatory schools. Regional accrediting agencies seek to assure that an institution follows its mission statement (purpose). The mission statement of any institution is written by that institution. In the case of most Baptist colleges and seminaries this mission statement is approved by the convention to whom it is responsible.

In the process of accreditation, accrediting committees carefully review the mission statement, governing structure, financial circumstances, enrollment pattern, curriculum design, and qualifications of the faculty with emphases on faculty work load. An effort is made to validate the overall education that is offered for the students attending the institution. The goal is to assure that a student will receive quality education in keeping with the mission statement of the institution.

Specialized accreditation is provided for institutions that have particular academic interests. This includes teacher training schools, schools of nursing, business schools, schools of music, law schools, and theological schools. These specialized accrediting bodies seek to reflect the stan-

dards expected by the professional body it serves. The goal is to properly prepare an individual in his or her chosen field of endeavor.

Each institution voluntarily determines if it wishes to apply for accreditation with a particular accrediting association. The primary incentive for an institution grows out of a recognition that students from an unaccredited, or improperly accredited, institution have difficulty in transferring credits and attending graduate school. In many instances it is impossible for an individual from an unaccredited institution to obtain employment after graduation.

Currently there are two studies which are continuing regarding self accreditation. One is by the SBC Education Commission and the other is by the SBC Executive Committee. At this year's Southern Baptist Convention, the Education Commission reported that the accrediting association in no way hampered an institution from carrying out its mission statement. In other words, the accrediting association does not attempt to dissuade an institution from its Christian or Baptist purpose.

To form our own Baptist accrediting association would be a very long, arduous, and expensive process. It could result in the loss of accreditation by regional associations. Such loss would make it difficult for credits to be transferred from one institution to another, for an individual to do graduate study, or obtain employment.

Southern Baptists have been well served by existing accrediting associations. The formation of a Southern Baptist accrediting association would not only be expensive, but could create tremendous turmoil and difficulty for individuals and for our convention.

Arkansas Baptist

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DON MOORE

You'll Be Glad To Know



America could return to a position of divine favor. Just because we have finally won a war does not mean we are where God can really bless us. Just because we feel better about ourselves doesn't mean God does. The dramatic turn to God and prayer in the face of war will reveal our hypocrisy and shallowness unless there is an on-going demonstration of our awareness of need of him and obedience to him. I am not seeing much evidence that lasting commitments have been made.

We need to remember that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Pr. 14:34). David said it this way, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 33:12).

This nation cannot be more blessed than its individuals. The individual is the product of the home. Before we can become the great spiritual force and moral force we need to be, revival must come to the home. A psychologist was recently quoted as saying, "The purpose of the family is to live out the will of God. The purpose of the church is to equip the family to live out the will of God." God did not put the responsibility for the religious education of the children upon the church, but upon the home (see Dt. 6:6-7).

It seems that when government assumed the educational responsibility for children through public schools, parents tended to turn the religious educational responsibility over to the church. They have seemed to assume less and less responsibility for it as the years have gone by. With the onset of World War II, and mothers working outside the home, and the devastating increase in single parent families, parenting has come upon hard times, or should we say, children have come upon hard times. "America, the Violence Within" has highlighted the violent crimes committed by the youth of our land. Over 25 percent of the murders in Arkansas are committed by people under 18 years of age.

As we celebrate our freedom during the July 4th season, may we rededicate ourselves to America's basic resource, the home. It is also God's key strategy for meeting our basic needs.

Don Moore is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

MIKE HUCKABEE

The President's Corner

Convention highlights



The Atlanta gathering of the Southern Baptist Convention in June may have marked a watershed event for our denomination. There prevailed the sweetest and most godly spirit I've have witnessed at one of our Southern Baptist Conventions in a long time. While the glory belongs to the Lord, much of the credit must be given to President Morris Chapman, whose extraordinary efforts to be fair and gracious made a significant difference.

A true highlight of the convention for Arkansas Baptists was the election of Eddie Harrison, pastor of the Dollarway Church in Pine Bluff, as second vice president. Eddie's election was significant for a number of reasons. It marked the appropriate recognition of pastors of smaller size churches; it was an election that came about not due to pre-convention activity, but due to the spontaneous response of the messengers; and it was an honor bestowed upon one of the most delightful Christian men in our state.

Eddie loves Jesus. And he loves everyone that Jesus loves. He is a man that unquestionably believes in the authority and integrity of the Word of God, but he has never been unkind or spiteful to those with whom he differed. His election is not due to ambition on his part; he is one of the rare people who

truly is in awe of his salvation and acceptance before a Holy God. His precious wife, Linda, is a lady of character and walks with God. (In addition, Eddie's mother makes a hot mustard sauce that would make a Connecticut Yankee want a second helping of purple hull peas.)

Whenever Baptists gather, there's certain to be some disagreement over various issues. It's not wrong to disagree—it's just wrong to be disagreeable. A few messengers, either out of sheer ignorance or spite, tried to disrupt business with motions that were out of order or with completely asinine "points of order" which would best be labeled "points of disorder." Aside from that, the attitude and atmosphere of the convention was most refreshing.

It was clear that the emphasis of prayer and spiritual awakening, led by Avery Willis, T. W. Hunt, and Henry Blackaby, did much to bring Southern Baptists back to a recognition of God's requirement for us to be a "holy people."

All of us in Arkansas can be grateful for this year's SBC, and pray that a similar spirit of revival will touch our Arkansas gathering this fall!

Mike Huckabee, pastor of Texarkana Beech Street First Church, is president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

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Letters to the Editor

Gravely disappointed

I am gravely disappointed that Oliver North was invited to speak at the Pastor's Conference, and that he was received as a "hero," according to *Gazette* accounts.

The Southern Baptist Convention leadership has offered as a speaker a convicted, unrepentant felon who compares himself to Moses and whose appeal is not based on a profession of innocence. The appeal, rather, is based on the contention that North's admission of guilt to Congress may have tainted his trial.

The convention leadership's view of inerrancy is interesting if they believe (1) the Bible literally calls us to break legal bans on providing weapons to revolutionaries and then to destroy evidence of our actions, as Colonel North has confessed to doing, or (2) someone who has done these things is an acceptable role model for Christians trying to live a life of faith and obedience.

Since I began tithing almost two years ago, the Lord has led me to be faithful in my giving. I don't believe, though, that the

Lord would have me contribute tax-deductible funds to a convention leadership that makes use of part of the contribution to finance politically right-wing activities. I will, if I elect, contribute to the political position of my choice and don't need the conservative leadership of the convention to do this for me.—Murray K. McKinsey, Little Rock

God's role

When my unit (142FA) prepared to deploy to the Persian Gulf War, Saddam Hussein claimed it to be a holy war. He promised that god (Allah) was going to help him and his military to "walk in American blood." It is apparent he was at least mistaken and most likely his claims were theologically unfounded. God doesn't condone war, not even when called "holy war." Hitler also claimed the blessing of God on his superior race. He cited the advancement of his society as reason for God's being on their side.

On the flip side, Christians in the Allied

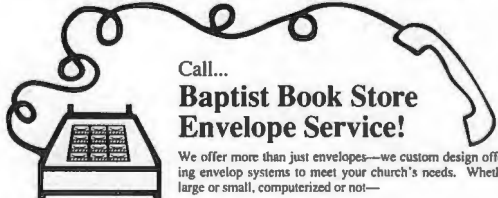
Forces need to determine what God's role was in the Persian Gulf War. Some say our God whipped their god. Right is might, righteousness prevails, or good always wins is not a biblical theology (read Job).

Here are some facts to consider: (1) some of the Allied Forces were Muslim and they were praying five times daily, (2) of all the governments involved, the Muslims were the only religion-guided government, (3) America is not a Christian nation, far from it, and (4) the freedom we fought for affords a polytheistic society.

The individual believer can know God through faith in Jesus Christ. Psalms 91 promises that the believer can expect God to be near him and protect him. The greatest strength from God one can have is the faith that God will never leave nor forsake the believer and whatever the outcome, the believer will be blessed of God. Knowing God's presence and available help has always been a strength of the Christian and an asset for the Christian in trying times. In my opinion, God was not honored, nor will he ever be honored in war. He is only honored by faithful believers and their service and trust that prevails even in the midst of tragedy.

When you and I praise God and country, please realize that God is not pleased with us, if he is the same God who destroyed Nineveh. Thank God for our freedom from sin and for a country where we are able to worship freely.—David McLemore, Russellville

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THIRD OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

Credit abuse

by Mark Kelly

Contributing Editor, Arkansas Baptist

The easiest way to get your family into money trouble is to abuse credit.

Credit is easy. Too easy. Almost anyone with a regular income and a reputation for paying bills can get a credit card. However, many people lack the discipline to use them properly. The convenience of not having to carry cash and the ease of saying "charge it" often obscure the dangers of easy credit.

Financial advisors point out that easy credit tempts a person to buy more than he really needs and reduces his inclination to shop around for the best price. With annual interest charges at 18 percent or more, those who use credit to make major purchases wind up paying far more than those who patiently save their money and pay cash.

Credit poses the most serious threat to those who want to live a lifestyle they cannot afford, experts say. These families succumb to credit's power to give them what they want without having to pay for it. The lure of instant gratification creates a habit of buying on impulse without regard for the debt being amassed. A family strapped with debt can easily fall into money trouble if an illness, layoff, or firing disrupts their flow of cash.

To find out if you are abusing credit, answer these questions, suggested by Betty Jeanne Sundling of the Cooperative Extension Service.

—Are you able to pay only the minimum balance due on your charge

accounts each month?

—Are you stalling one creditor to pay another?

—Are you having to skip payments on credit card accounts?

—Are you late in making payments each month? Are you receiving past due bill notices?

—Are you adding new credit card accounts in order to increase your borrowing power?

are abusing credit and are in danger of serious financial crisis. Stop adding to your credit debt, get your living expenses in line with your actual income, and take immediate steps to reduce your debt load.

Getting out of trouble

Sundling suggests three approaches to reducing a family's debt obligations.

Low Balance Method. Identify which of your credit bills have balances low enough to pay off in two or three months. Pay off those bills first and use the freed-up income to increase payments on larger accounts.

High Interest Method. Identify which accounts have the highest interest rates. Paying off those accounts first will let you put more of your income toward debt reduction.

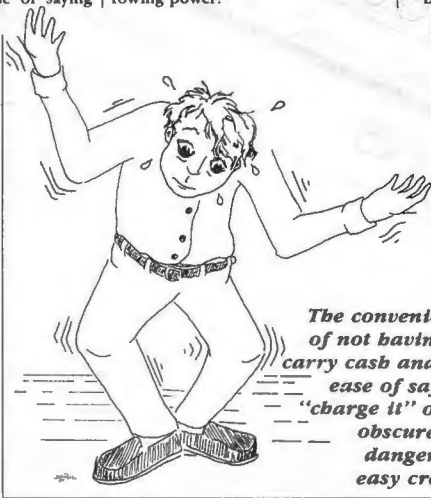
Pro-Rate Method. Calculate what you can spend for debt payment. Divide that amount by your current monthly debt payment. That will give you a percentage. Multiply each of your bill payments by that percentage and offer to

pay each creditor that amount instead of your regular payment.

Families in deep debt trouble have several options available to them, Sundling says.

A debt consolidation loan will allow you to reduce the amount you pay out each month and stretch the debt repayment over a longer time. Such a loan makes your payments more manageable but usually winds up costing more in finance charges.

A second option for families unable



The convenience of not having to carry cash and the ease of saying "charge it" often obscure the dangers of easy credit.

—Are you borrowing money to pay expected expenses such as taxes and insurance premiums?

—Are you using credit cards to cover everyday living expenses?

—Are you using credit card advances to make payments on other credit card accounts?

—Are you charging more each month than you are paying on your accounts?

A "yes" answer to two or more of these questions very likely means you



to meet their debt obligations is to consult a credit counseling service. These agencies will study your financial situation and make suggestions for better money management. Your counselor may speak to your creditors for you and negotiate an easier repayment schedule. In return, you sign a contract agreeing to cancel your credit cards and not take on new debt. A nominal fee is charged. Beware of services that charge you in relation to the amount of your debt.

A third option is to present a new payment plan to creditors yourself. Explain your situation, outline your income and expenses, and negotiate an agreement with smaller payments over a longer period of time. Get the new agreement in writing and stick to it.

Credit wise


How much credit can your family afford? The answer, Sundling says, depends on the size of your family, the size and stability of your income, what your fixed expenses are, and whether or not you can take on additional bills and still allow the family to save money for emergencies.

Many financial advisors suggest that, in general, no more than 20 percent of your take-home pay should be committed to debt payment (excluding a home mortgage). Some advisors, however, recommend that debt payment exceed no more than 10 percent to 15 percent of your take-home pay.

In addition, credit should be used only to purchase items that will last long after the final payment has been made. Under no circumstances should credit be used to make small purchases or to cover everyday living expenses.

The best way to avoid money trouble caused by credit abuse is to be sparing and cautious in your use of credit. Shop for credit, paying special attention to finance charges. Understand the credit contracts you sign.

Make a commitment to paying cash, instead of buying on credit. Exercising the patience and discipline to save for a cash purchase, rather than using credit, not only will keep you out of debt and save you lots of money in interest charges, but it also will increase your self-esteem at being able to manage your money wisely.



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Dr. Don Moore, Executive Director

Arkansas All Over

MILLIE GILL

People

Jerry Ray is serving as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Austin, going there from Southbend Church, Jacksonville.

Charles Tripp is serving as pastor of Oakridge Chapel, Beebe.

Ricky Ray Savacool of Camden died May 22 at age 35. He was a Baptist minister. Survivors are his wife, Cindy Savacool; two sons, Adam and Kaleb Savacool of Camden; his parents, Richard and Patsy Savacool of Malvern; his grandmother, Mrs. J.A. Savacool of Camden; and a sister.

Cliff Jenkins has resigned as minister of education at First Church in Springdale to go to First Church of Orlando, Fla.

Fred Spann is serving as interim minister of music for Wynne Church.

Paul Burris has retired as pastor of Gillet Church.

Ray Huddleston has resigned as pastor of Almyra Church.

Larry Chapman is serving as pastor of Gum Springs Church.

Rick Booyer is serving as pastor of Emmanuel Church in Jane, Mo.

Robert Hull is serving as pastor of Grace Church, Rogers.

Michael Smith has joined the staff of First Church in Rogers as minister of evangelism.

Lawson Hatfield will leave June 9 as interim pastor of Park Place Church in Hot Springs, following six months of service.

Mike Petty will begin serving June 16 as pastor of Park Place Church in Hot Springs, coming there from Pine Tree Church at Colt.

Jean Hoffman observed 15 years of service June 1 as pastor's secretary for First Church in Mountain Home.

Marcella Lentz is serving as nursery coordinator for First Church in Jacksonville, following the resignation of Pam Hargis.

Randall O'Brien has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church in Little Rock, effective July 8, to join the staff of Baylor University.

Earnestine Camp and **Jessie Moore** were recognized May 26 by Immanuel Church in Little Rock as Senior Adults of the Year.

Randy Varnell of Pine Bluff has joined the staff of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana as a youth intern.

Steven Dooley of Fort Smith, a student at Ouachita Baptist University, is serving as summer youth intern at El Dorado First Church.

W. Maurice Hurley and **Doug Lowe**, members of Park Hill Church in North Little Rock, were recently in Uniontown, Penn., to lead a revival at Laurel Church. The effort resulted in nine professions of faith and a couple's commitment to a full time Christian vocation.

Steven B. Lampkin was named senior vice president and administrator of Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock June 3. Lampkin, who began work with the medical center in 1982, is a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock.

Billy Gurley is serving Bradley Church as minister of youth.

Todd Reed is joined the staff of First Church in Genoa as minister of youth.

James O. Preston II will begin serving June 23 as pastor of First Church in Stamps. He is a native of Missouri and a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kevin Dunn of Delight has joined the staff of Memorial Church in Waldo as minister of youth and music.

James E. Hill Jr. has announced his retirement as director of missions for Calvary Association, effective Dec. 31.

Bob J. Guess is serving as pastor of First Church of Hunter, coming there from Jonesboro.

Charles Carren has resigned as pastor of Holly Island East Side Church, Rector.

John Shaw has resigned as pastor of Harmony Church, Pollard.

David Richey has resigned as pastor of Columbia-Jarrett Church, Maynard, to enroll in Southwestern Seminary.

Bobby Crabb has resigned as pastor of Hopewell Church, Corning, to enroll in Southwestern Seminary.

Jlm Williams has resigned as pastor of Calvary Church in Dardanelle to move to Garland, Texas.

Ray Granade and **Susan Wink**, professors at Ouachita Baptist University, have been awarded 1991 summer research grants. Granade, professor of history and director of library services, is studying several Arkansas entrepreneurs over the last three decades. Wink, assistant professor of English, will compile material on the life of William Carey Crane, a pioneer in Christian higher education in the southern United States.

R.A. Hill of Little Rock, a retired minister, died May 31 at age 83. He was a member of Immanuel Church in Little Rock. Survivors are his wife Ruby Neal Hill; two daughters, Lynda McKenney of Houston, Texas, and Martha White of Little Rock; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Margie Broyles was recognized June 2 by Life Line Church in Little Rock for 25 years of service as organist.

Will Kitchingham has joined the staff of First Church in Mount Ida as minister of music and youth.

Sandra Middleton has resigned as administrative secretary at Walnut Street Church in Jonesboro, following more than 12 years of service.

John Marshall will begin serving July 7 as pastor of East Side Church in Fort Smith, coming there from Garden Church in Bridgeton, Mo., where he has served as pastor since 1985. He is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Mo., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Ruth, have two children, Jame II, and Becky.

Scott McKane has joined the staff of Matthews Memorial Church in Pine Bluff as summer youth worker. He is a student at Ouachita Baptist University.

Bruce Morris resigned July 2 as pastor of Trinity Church in Fort Smith, following more than 13 years of service.

James O. Preston II began serving June 23 as pastor of First Church in Stamps. He is a May graduate of Southwestern Seminary. Preston and his wife, Rachael, have three children, Jame Thomas, Katherine Elizabeth, and Rebecca Leigh.

W.V. Garner has announced his retirement as pastor of Cornerstone Church in Texarkana, effective Aug. 31.

Doug Hixson is serving as youth director at Jessleville Church.

Paul Huse is serving as youth director at Harvey's Chapel Church in Hot Springs.

Jerry Ray is serving as pastor of Oak Grove First Church, going there from Southbend First Church.

Keith Thomas is serving as pastor of Southbend First Church.

Harold O'Bryan is serving as pastor of Calvary Church, Ward.

Glean Rogers has resigned as pastor of Old Walnut Ridge Church to pastor a church in Charleston, Mo.

William Wayne West of serving as pastor of Amboy Church in North Little Rock, coming there from Joplin, Mo. He is a graduate of Midwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Kathy, are parents of three children, Amy, Beth, and Billy.

Dillard A. Wyatt of Rosie died May 11 at age 87. He was a member of Rosie Church. Survivors include his wife, Vela; and a brother.

Mark Tolbert resigned June 9 as pastor of South Highland Church in Little Rock to serve as pastor of Wynne Church, effective June 30.

Steven Hilton Bowen was licensed to the preach the gospel May 22 at Immanuel Church in El Dorado. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. James Weedman of El Dorado and David Bowen of Houston, Texas.

Wilbur Herring completed his service June 23 as interim pastor of Wynne Church, following 10 months of service.

Wady Totty is serving as interim pastor of First Church in Hampton.

Eddie Elrod has retired as pastor of First Church in Thornton, following 11 years of service.

Nicole Yacks, a student at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla., is serving Waldron First Church as summer youth director.

Billy Maxey has resigned as pastor of Boles Southern Church to serve as pastor of First Church in Cash, Texas.

Mike Huckabee, pastor of Beech Street First Church in Texarkana and president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention,

spoke in the closing session of Arkansas Boys State June 14.

Nancy Fitts has resigned as publication/tape and paper ministry coordinator for Immanuel Church in Little Rock, following 17 years of service.

Ed Simpson, pastor of First Church in Sheridan, returned June 19 from service in the Persian Gulf.

Myrtle Anders of Osceola died June 11 at age 88. She was the widow of F.O. Anders. Her funeral services were held June 13 in East Side Church, Osceola. Survivors are a son, Walter Anders of Mountain Home; two daughters, Mrs. Wendell Harris of Osceola, and Mrs. William McCoy of Yellville; and a grandson.

Ralph Baker has joined the staff of Forrest Park Church in Pine Bluff as interim music and youth director.

Rebecca Lewis, daughter of Dr. Bill H. Lewis of Pine Bluff, has been named chaplain at the federal penitentiary at El Paso, Texas. Lewis has served for the past nine years as director of chaplaincy for the Harris County Jail in Houston, Texas.

Larry Foot is serving as interim minister of music for First Church in Pochontas.

B.F. Taylor is serving as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church at Howell/Wiville in Woodruff County.

Bert LaForney is serving as pastor of Honey Hill Church.

Bill Jones of Helena is serving as pastor of Monroe Church, having served the church as interim pastor for the past several months.

Hess Hester will begin serving July 18 as pastor of Markham Street in Little Rock, coming there from First Church in Smackover.

David Wilson Dally recently completed studies for the master of divinity degree at Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, Conn., graduating with summa cum laude honors. Dally is a 1986 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and a former music and youth director for First Church in Murfreesboro. He is the son of Herb and Betty Dally of Arkadelphia.

Wendy Richter, archivist at Riley-Hicklingboth Library at Ouachita Baptist University, has been elected as vice president of the Arkansas Women's History Institute in Little Rock.

Mrs. T.C. Trimble Jr. of Lonoke has been honored by an anonymous donor who recently gave \$1,000 to the Lonoke/Prairie County Regional Library System. Mrs. Trimble, who taught in several Lonoke County schools, taught Bible classes in Lonoke First Church for more than 65 years. She is the mother of Walls Trimble and Judge Elsjane Roy of Little Rock and Susan Measel of Birmingham.

Donald Cochran resigned as pastor of Calvary Church in Fort Smith June 9 to do bi-vocational and interim pastorates.

Don Allred has resigned as pastor of Needham Church, Jonesboro, to move to Granite City, Ill.

Tom Doty has resigned as pastor of Buffalo Chapel Church, Caraway.

Roger Wagner has resigned from the staff of First Church in Kensett to join the staff of First Church in Lake City.

Don Martin has resigned as pastor of Colt Church to move to California.

T. Jefferson Pounders III, a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary received two awards for his use of inferential statistics. He also was recipient of the 1991 Outstanding Research Award from the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship, the first to be presented in the fellowship's 13 year history, for his dissertation entitled "Congregational Decision Making: Extrarational Paradigm for Understanding Forced-Pastor Terminations in Selected Southern Baptist Congregations." Pounders is assistant professor of sociology at Ouachita Baptist University.

Glen Schmucker began serving July 21 as pastor of First Church in Siloam Springs, moving there from Abilene, Texas. A native of Texas, he is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Susan, have two sons, Griffin, and Cameron.

John Cutburth is serving as pastor of Ro-Lynn Hills Church in Rogers.

Michael Smith has joined the staff of First Church in Rogers as minister of evangelism.

Hosea Harrington resigned June 16 as pastor of Hilldale Church, Alexander, following nine years of service.

Charles Langley resigned June 2 as pastor of Hagarville Church, following more than three years of service.

LOCAL & STATE

Brock Rowatt is serving as summer intern youth worker at First Church in Heber Springs. He is a recent graduate of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.

Lannie Younger has resigned as pastor of First Church in Tuckerman to move to Osage.

Truett Murphy is serving as pastor of Clear Springs Church, Imboden.

Danny Ingram has resigned as associate pastor of First Church in Tuckerman.

Terry Walls is serving Sedgwick Church as minister of music.

Daniel McCrosky has resigned as pastor of Memorial Church in Hot Springs.

H.E. Williams, founder and president emeritus of Williams Baptist College, was recently recognized by First Church in Walnut Ridge for the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry, May 31, 1921 by Casa Church.

T. Scott Hinton has accepted a call to serve as pastor of First Church in Sherwood. He will move there from DeWitt First Church.

Charles Bell is serving as pastor of Canfield Church, Lewisville.

A.V. Smith has announced his retirement as pastor of Tennessee Church, Texarkana.

Billy Walker has been named as staff evangelist for First Church in Batesville.

Billy Davis has resigned from the staff of Philadelphia Church, Jonesboro, to enter the full-time music ministry.

Dennis Bell will join the staff of Second Church in El Dorado Aug. 4 as minister of education and outreach, coming there from University Church in Arlington, Texas. A native of Hot Springs, he is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary. He is married to the former Julie Ann Frye.

Briefly

Wynne Church observed Polly Fisher Sunday May 26, recognizing her retirement as church secretary following more than 21 years of service. The congregation also honored her with a reception June 2.

East Side Church in Paragould observed Visitation Covenant Sunday May 26.

Marked Tree First Church will launch a program for senior adults June 25 when

Randy and Nan Maxwell of West Church in Batesville will be speakers. A men's prayer breakfast ministry will be launched June 28.

Huntington First Church recently held a revival with Gary Stallings as evangelist. Pastor Joe W. Davis reported 30 professions of faith and 10 baptisms.

Caney Creek Church near Lonoke conducted an old-fashioned tent revival May 26-31 that resulted in 13 professions of faith. Danny Veteto, pastor of First Church in Gravel Ridge, was preacher. Steve and Angela Cochran directed the music. Elton Ballentine is pastor.

Baring Cross Church in North Little Rock youth choir toured in Kansas City June 3-7.

Cabot First Church began "Summer Missions Adventure" June 5 for children ages four through sixth grade. This program featured testimonies from missionaries, activities, and projects that create an awareness for personal involvement in mission work.

Park Hill Church in North Little Rock recently honored Maurice and Kathryn Hurley in recognition of his retirement as minister of missions and pastoral care, following more than three years of service.

Immanuel Church in Rogers observed 50 years of service June 9 with activities that included recognition of charter members, a multi-media presentation, a church video, and an ice cream fellowship. Dale Thompson is pastor.

Crow Mountain Chapel at Russellville establish a new high attendance May 19 when 56 were present for Sunday School.

Dover Church is planning to reorganize their Sunday School, launch a building program, and implement two Sunday morning worship services.

Woodland Heights Church in Conway will hold a 1:30 p.m. groundbreaking ceremony June 23 to launch construction of an educational building.

Mountain Home First Church observed Leroy and Betty Joyce Springfield Day June 2 in recognition of his service as interim pastor. They were presented with a plaque and monetary gift.

Batesville First Church recently voted to purchase the Russ Building in Batesville. The property, to be remodeled, will provide additional educational space and a larger fellowship hall and kitchen.

Conway First Church launched a sanctuary refurbishment program June 17.

East Side Church in Osceola celebrated its 21st homecoming June 2 with activities that included Sunday School, a morning worship service, a potluck noon meal, and afternoon gospel concert, featuring the Master Quartet of Searcy. J. Wayne Moore is pastor.

Ashdown First Church mission team is serving in Atlanta, Ga., June 14-22, assisting the Techwood Mission Center.

Plumerville First Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Aug. 18 when former pastors will be special guests.

Russellville First Church is sponsoring two different three-day Bible study workshops July 18-20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the church's new facility located on West Second and South El Paso. Level I workshop will be training for Bible study students and potential leaders. Level II will be for students and leaders who have completed the Level I training.

Little Rock Immanuel Church chapel choir, under appointment by the Home Mission Board, was in central Florida June 15-25 where they conducted backyard Bible clubs in three of the largest campgrounds of America. Group leaders were Jamie Crenshaw, Bruce Hester, and Allen Morton. Lynn Madden, minister of music, was director and coordinator.

Mansfield First Church dedicated its new parking facilities and recreation area May 26. Joel Faircloth is pastor.

Hope Calvary Church ordained Ricki McCain, Sonny Johnson, Tommy Everett, Bill Davis, and Steve Tarpley to the deacon ministry June 16.

Carey Association mission team will return July 7 from work with the Zinghu Association in the state of Para, Brazil. Pastor Jim Clark of Faith Church, Camden, coordinated the work. They represented Faith Church, Fordyce First Church, Bethesda Church, Fordyce, and Calvary Church, Camden.

Flippin First Church celebrated its history with Founder's Day May 19. Program participants included Kathryn Hurst, one of the charter members. Steve Martin is pastor.

Rea Valley Church ordained Don Baker and Ronald Flippin to the deacon ministry May 26. Doug Huskey preached the ordination message.

Whiteville Church at Gassville celebrated its 100th anniversary June 23 with activities that included Sunday School, an 11 a.m. worship service, a potluck noon meal, and an afternoon service, featuring special music and introduction of former pastors.

Tilton Church at Hickory Ridge observed homecoming June 30 with morning worship, a noon meal, and an afternoon musical program, featuring the Matthews Family of Palestine.

Brinkley First Church youth choir will return July 6 from a choir tour and mission trip, performing in churches in Clarksville, and Dawson, and Houston, Texas. They also assisted home missionary Mildred McWhorter in the Union Association Mission Center, Houston.

Lakeside Church in Rogers held a Victory Celebration June 30, celebrating the final payment on their new building. The celebration included a barbeque dinner and noteburning ceremony.

Rector First Church has launched new works that include a ministry to senior adults and a summer children's ministry.

Piggott First Church youth led a vacation Bible school at Knobel Church June 23-30. Alan Parks coordinated the work.

Dollarway Church at Pine Bluff held a service May 26 in which Steve Stanert, minister of youth and education, was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Glendale Church near Booneville dedicated a new sanctuary in a 2 p.m. ser-

vice June 30 and with services that were held July 1-3 which featured Shawn Barnard and Elton Pennington as speakers. Music was provided by God's Foursome and Glorybound.

Monticello First Church recently completed a five day vacation Bible school that had an average attendance of 144.

Meridian Church at Crossett is constructing a fellowship hall that will house a kitchen, dining room with a seating capacity of 200, a conference room, a pastor's study, and three classrooms. Men of the church are using their vacation time for construction and women of the church are providing their meals. Dan is a pastor.

East Mount Zion Trinity Church at Clarksville ordained Doyle Jordan to the deacon ministry June 9. Participating in the program were Pastor Robbie Jackson, and George Domerese, director of missions for Clear Creek Association.

Hot Springs Central Church has strengthened its missions education program by launching work for Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Baptist Young Women, and Brotherhood.

Hurricane Lake Church at Benton ordained Eugene Johnson and Billy Ward to the deacon ministry June 16.

Paragould East Side Church 26 member mission team will leave July 5 for New Jersey to lead a five-day vacation Bible school with a family night and a three day revival, returning July 15. They will be ministering at Eatontown Monmouth Church and Howell Church.

Looking Ahead

July

- 8 Pre-Retirement Seminar, *El Dorado First Church (SA)*
- 8-9 Student Summer Missionaries Mid-Summer Retreat, *(Ms)*
- 8-10 GA Mini-Camp (3rd-6th grades), *Camp Paron (WU)*
- 8-12 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, *Siloam Springs (SS)*
- 9 Pre-Retirement Seminar, *Jonesboro Central Church (SA)*
- 10 Pre-Retirement Seminar, *Little Rock Baptist Medical Center (SA)*
- 10-12 GA Mini-Camp (3rd-6th grades), *Camp Paron (WU)*
- 11 Pre-Retirement Seminar, *Rogers First Church (SA)*
- 15-16 Parent Leadership Workshop, *Little Rock Parkway Place Church (DT)*
- 15-19 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, *Siloam Springs (SS)*
- 18 Fellowship of Southern Baptist Retired Workers, *North Little Rock Park Hill Church (Ad)*
- 22-26 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, *Siloam Springs (SS)*
- 27 Associational Brotherhood Directors' Meeting, *Bryant First Southern Church (Bbd)*
- 29-8/2 Masterlife Workshop, *Little Rock Parkway Place Church (DT)*
- 29-8/2 Arkansas Baptist Assembly, *Siloam Springs (SS)*

August

- 1-2 Weekday Early Education Workshop, *Little Rock First Church (SS)*
- 2-3 Pastor/Director Conference *(DT)*
- 8 DOM Update Meeting, *Little Rock First Church (Ad)*
- 8-10 Junior High Jamboree, *Williams Baptist College (Ev)*
- 8-10 DiscipleYouth Conference, *Williams Baptist College (DT)*

Abbreviations:

Ad - Administration; *Bbd* - Brotherhood; *CL* - Church Leadership; *DT* - Discipleship Training; *Ev* - Evangelism; *M* - Music; *Mn* - Missions; *SS* - Sunday School; *SA* - Stewardship/Annuity; *Stu* - Student; *WU* - Woman's Missionary Union



Prayer for Awakening through Men and Families

Two Prayer for Spiritual Awakening retreats to affirm our need to begin with pastors will be held during the fall of 1991.

Date	Place	Prayer Leader	Cost
Sept. 12-13	Camp Paron	Mickey Bonner	\$25
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	Camp Paron	T.W. Hunt	\$25

Pastors interested in attending one or both of these retreats should contact Dr. Glendon Grober at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203, telephone: 501-376-4791, ext. 5158.

Keeping the Promise

In an effort based on faith, the board of trustees of Arkansas Children's Homes and Family Ministries will open the Promise House, the El Dorado-based home for unwed mothers, ahead of schedule in mid-September.

Many needs still to be met. Churches and associations statewide have made heroic efforts to get the house ready so far, but more will be needed to enable the facility to open. Three major areas remain in need of furnishings: the formal living room, dining room, and the foyer, which will serve as a waiting room.

Intake procedures could begin as early as this month. Anyone wishing to apply should contact Jennifer Cloyde, P.O. Box 2036, El Dorado, AR 71731; telephone 862-0199. Ms. Cloyde, Promise House caseworker, will make sure that arrangements for early prenatal care have been made.

Initial adoption inquiries also are being accepted. Couples who are interested in adoption may contact Barbara Billingsley, P.O. Box 2015, El Dorado, AR 71731; telephone 862-0095.

Groups wishing to tour the facility should make arrangements to do so now, according to Ms. Billingsley, who directs the work. Tours will be available after the facility opens, but on a limited basis to protect the girls' privacy.

The Promise House currently is in the process of being licensed as a facility, and the agency is also in process of being licensed for adoption.

The Promise House, a plantation home originally built in the 1840s, sits on nine acres in El Dorado. The grounds are being kept by rotating Liberty Association work days.



A small outbuilding will house the laundry room and education area. El Dorado Public Schools will supply classroom furnishings, a teacher, and two meals a day. One washer and dryer have been secured; another set is needed.





Upstairs, the home has three large bedrooms and one small bedroom, which is to be used as an isolation area. Churches from throughout the state have furnished the bedrooms, two upstairs bathrooms and recreation area.



A large working kitchen will provide meals for twelve girls. The kitchen has one refrigerator; it needs another refrigerator, a freezer, ice machine and a large commercial mixer.



The oversized dining room will need to be furnished with four dining sets.

*Text and photos
by Colleen Backus*

College Digest

Williams Baptist College

Kicks off campaign—Williams Baptist College recently kicked off its Golden Anniversary capital campaign to raise a base goal of \$2.25 million with a challenge goal of \$3 million. WBC plans for its goals to be achieved through a series of campaigns involving the board of trustees, faculty and staff, alumni, foundations, and corporations.

Concludes celebration—William Baptist College concluded its 50-year Golden Anniversary celebration with its 1991 commencement exercises. WBC awarded 38 bachelor's degrees and 32 associate degrees, as well as its first bachelor of science degree in education. Mike Huckabee, president of the ABSC, was the keynote speaker.

Summer volleyball camp—Williams' athletic department will host its annual girls' volleyball camp July 29-Aug. 2. The camp is for girls in the 7-12 grade. For more information, contact Carol Halford, camp director, at P.O. Box 2287, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476; 886-6741, ext. 153.

Students serve—Nineteen WBC

students are serving as BSU summer missionaries this year. The BSU program at Williams ranked first in the state and fifth in the nation last year for the number of BSU students it sent to the summer mission field.

Rejoins staff—Ron Sanders recently resigned as pastor of Walnut Ridge First Church to accept the position of vice-president for development at WBC. Sanders is a graduate of Southern Baptist College (now Williams) and East Texas Baptist University. He has done post-graduate work at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ouachita Baptist University

Grants awarded—More than \$8,500 has been awarded to 14 OBU faculty members by Paul and Virginia Henry Enrichment grants program to support "innovative" approaches to learning for their students, outside the normal classroom environment, during the 1991-92 academic year.

Program helps fight gap—Ouachita has received a \$414,472 three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, enabling it to provide migrant and seasonal farm workers the opportunity to obtain the equivalency of a secondary school diploma. There is no charge to the migrants attending the classes; each participant is paid \$15 weekly for attendance.

Downs changes jobs—William D. Downs Jr. will leave his post as director of public relations at Ouachita to devote his full attention to serving as chairman of the department of communications at OBU. His move to full-time teaching was made possible by the hiring of Jeff and Deborah Root, who will join the Ouachita faculty and staff this August after they each receive their doctorates in journalism from Oklahoma State University.

New communications headquarters—The Harvey and Bernice Jones Foundation of Springdale has given \$400,000 to the OBU department of communications, enabling it to be housed in a new 12,000 square foot headquarters in the Mabey Fine Arts Center. The facility includes a television operations center, a desktop publishing laboratory, photography lab, classrooms and offices provided by the Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Education Trust of Malvern.

Arkansans graduate from seminaries

Thirty-two Arkansans were among those graduating from seminaries during May.

Southwestern

Twenty-two Arkansans were among the 377 students graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, on May 10.

Receiving the doctor of philosophy degree was David Franklin Uth of Searcy.

Receiving the doctor of education degree was James Randall Walker of Danville.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were James Edward Daniel Jr. of Crossett, Stephen Lane Dumas of El Dorado, Ronald Lynn Edwards of Harrison, Gary G. Hill of Sherwood and James Earl Snow III of Fort Smith.

Receiving the master of divinity with biblical languages degree were Charles Robert Angel of Hot Springs, Barbara Jean Bell of El Dorado, Kevin Scott Crowder of Mabelvale, Ernest Lee DeSoto of El Dorado, Matthew Mills Golf of Rogers, Kevin R. Stewart of Lewisville, and Jeffery Allan Thomas of Searcy.

Receiving the master of arts in religious education degree were Mike Allen Auten of Monette, Randy Wayne Cox of Batesville, David Alan Graves of Fordyce, and Boyd Wayne Hall of Jonesboro.

Receiving the master of music degree were Horace Clinton Acclin Jr. of Searcy and David McCoy of Benton.

Receiving the master of arts in communication degree was Ramona Leigh Johnson of Little Rock.

Receiving the associate of divinity degree was Lyle Clinton Hern of Camden.

Southern

Four Arkansans were among those graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., on May 24.

Receiving the master of social work degree were Ellen Douglas Merritt of Fort Smith and Sharon Anne Odom of Greenbrier.

Receiving the doctor of philosophy was T. Jefferson Pounders III of Arkadelphia.

Receiving the master of divinity was John Franklin Rogers Jr. of Jonesboro.

New Orleans

Two Arkansans were among those graduating from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on May 17.

Mark V. Ferguson from Warren received the associate of divinity degree.

A. Wayne Carter from Benton received the master of religious education degree.

Midwestern

Three Arkansans were among those graduating from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary May 25.

Receiving a master of divinity degree was Gary B. Scott of Pine Bluff.

Receiving a master of divinity-correlated degree were David A. Lewis of Little Rock and Steve Matthews of Van Buren.

Mid-America

Reginald David Fowler of Forrest City received the master of divinity degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., on May 10.

Tremendous challenge

"Excitement" and "nervousness" are the two terms Dr. Jimmy Millikin uses to describe his new position as president of Williams Baptist College near Walnut Ridge. Millikin, who assumed the post on July 1, is excited about the new challenge. "I've been in the classroom for 25 years, and the challenge of administration and development is rather new to me," he said. This challenge also sets the stage for a certain "nervousness," Millikin admitted, but he is assured because "I have a lot of prayer support which gives me a sense of confidence."

A native of Clay County, Millikin was converted at the age of 14 and baptized by Sam Pillows, the grandfather of Jack Nicholas, WBC's chancellor and former president. He graduated from Southern Baptist College (now Williams) in 1956 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from East Texas Baptist College in 1958. He received a Th.D. degree from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in 1967.

Millikin pastored a number of churches in Arkansas and Texas during his school years, and then in 1965 returned to Southern Baptist College as a professor, where he served until 1973. He then joined the faculty of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., where he remained until accepting his current position. Millikin was elected to office by the WBC board of trustees on March 22.

There are three major objectives Millikin wishes to accomplish while in office. These have to do with perception, people and programs.

First, Millikin feels that the perception of WBC does not agree with what the institution really is. "I think that as I talk with people the perception is that we are still a junior college, and I would like for folks to think of us as a true baccalaureate-offering school." Many regard the college as a "Bible school," or place where ministers are trained, he commented, and although that is a very viable part of WBC's curriculum, Millikin also would like there to be an awareness of WBC's contributions in the areas of education and business.

Williams now offers three baccalaureate programs: Christian ministry, business, and elementary education. The Christian ministry degree is available in several areas of emphasis including Bible, Christian education, Christian music and Christian recreation.

The second objective Millikin has is in the area of people. "When I think of people, I think of students," he said. "I'm hoping that, despite the competition that

private schools have in our society, that WBC can be reaching 1,000 students by the turn of the century. Now that may seem to be in the realm of fantasy, but I think it is in the realm of possibility." That goal would require recruitment of proper staff and faculty, Millikin observed, and he would like to build upon the foundation already in place at WBC and bring in those who are "unapologetically committed to the Christian world view" to teach in various areas.

Millikin's third objective concerns programs. "We do need to broaden our offerings," he observed, "In addition to the three existing baccalaureate areas, I have hopes that very soon we can offer a major in psychology."

Millikin noted that Williams has 8,000 alumni and former students, including those active in business and education, and a host of pastors throughout Arkansas and southeast Missouri. He feels the college has had a very real impact on Southern Baptist life in the area. "I'm always running across individuals who got their college start at Southern."

When Southern Baptist College was started, there was a great need for an "educated ministry," Millikin said. "Much of Southern's early emphasis was given to educating preachers and pastors; it was a rare thing to find a pastor of a northeast Arkansas church who had been through college, much less seminary. Southern played a great part in filling church pulpits with an educated ministry."

In speaking about his commitment to the task at hand, Millikin noted that he has already been working in the area of development and has a good idea of what lies ahead. "Seeing the competition in the public education sector, it is a monumental task, and it will consume perhaps the rest of my active ministry. I see it as a very challenging task, and a very needed one. When some of us make this kind of move (into administration) we are often accused of 'leaving the ministry,' but I feel that one of the greatest needs in any denomination's life is the right kind of education. I believe it (WBC) can contribute a great deal to the work of God and the accomplishment of the basic mission that God has given us to do."

The difference between secular and truly Christian education revolves around three basic points, Millikin said. "First, we differ from public education in that we approach truth, or knowledge, from a Christian world view. Public education can not legally do that."



Jimmy Millikin

Second, he commented, is that Christian education is characterized by a Christian mission. "A Christian liberal arts college does not exist just to give people jobs. We have a goal; we have a mission. We believe that mission is ultimately to bring glory to God and in doing that to serve people."

The third aspect is that Williams differs from public education in that it cultivates a Christian environment, and promotes a Christian lifestyle on campus, Millikin observed.

In conclusion, Millikin said, "I am grateful and humbled that the board of trustees invited me to take this position and equally grateful that so many friends wanted to see me come to this position. I need the continued prayers and support of Arkansas Baptists."

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Around the State

Lisemby to serve in social ministries

Doris Lisemby of Arkadelphia has been assigned by the SBC Home Mission Board to serve as director of Christian social ministries for Red River Association in response to the association's request earlier in the year.

Maurice Hitt, director of missions for Red River Association, is Lisemby's supervisor. They will help to organize a Christian Social Ministries Council, conduct surveys, and seek to create awareness of community needs.

Mrs. Lisemby is a member of Arkadelphia Second Church. Volunteer missions is not new for her, as she has served as area consultant for District Seven through Mission Service Corps for the past two years.

Hobbs will speak to retirees

Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., will be the featured speaker when the Arkansas Baptist Fellowship of Retired Workers meets July 18 at Park Hill Church, North Little Rock.

"Making the Most of the Golden Years" will be theme for a panel discussion moderated by James Walker, director of ABSA Annuity and Stewardship Department. Panel members will be Dr. Kathleen Jones, retired medical missionary to Indonesia, Hobbs, and ABSA Executive Director Don Moore.

Erwin L. McDonald of North Little Rock, editor emeritus of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, serves as fellowship president.

Arkansas native appointed

Holly Hale of Little Rock recently was appointed to mission service by the SBC Home Mission Board. Hale will work in family and church service at Timber Creek Mission in Ormond Beach, Fla. Her husband, Steven, will be a church planter.

Hale is a graduate of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Arkansas missionaries return to Jordan

Graydon and Betty Hardister, Baptist representatives to Jordan, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 17147, Amman, Jordan). They are natives of Arkansas. He was born near Reynolds and also lived in Pine Bluff. She is the former Betty Williams of Bauxite. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1965.

Fan donations needed

The Central Arkansas Area Agency on Aging is seeking the donation of fans. The agency will distribute the donated fans to older adults in central Arkansas who are without air conditioning or fans. To donate, contact Susan Kuehner, Area Agency community support specialist at 372-5300 or 1-800-482-6359.

WEE Workshop promotes quality child care

Thousands of mothers of preschoolers find it necessary to work away from home in order to support their families or supplement the family income. They need quality day care for their preschoolers.

Many mothers who do not work away from home need time to run errands, go to the doctor, fellowship with friends. They need quality child care for their preschoolers while they have this time for personal and family enrichment activities.

Many of our Arkansas Baptist churches are providing quality child care for preschoolers through day care, nursery school, kindergarten, and mother's day out programs.

The annual Weekday Early Education Workshop is designed to give child care providers training in helping preschoolers grow spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially through developmentally appropriate learning activities. The workshop is scheduled for Aug. 1-2 at First Church, Little Rock. It begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday and ends at 12:30 p.m. on Friday.

Eight conference sessions are scheduled, and participants will have 28 conferences from which to choose. Some of the topics are: using the Bible with preschoolers, music, art, science/nature, learning centers, fun with Mother Goose, safety, health, discipline, dealing with crises, adapting curriculum for preschoolers with disabilities.

The workshop is approved by the Arkansas Department of Human Services, and eight hours of training can be obtained and documented.

A conference fee of \$18 is due at pre-registration. It includes lunch on Thursday, a conference portfolio, note pad, pen, refreshment breaks, and the workshop program. Pre-registration is limited to 500 participants or July 8, whichever comes first. For more information, call Pat Patton or Brenda Greer, 376-4791, ext. 5128.

Corrections

The May 23 ABN "College Digest" should have noted that Paul Williams, president of the OBU Student Senate, is from White Hall.

In the June 6 ABN, Chaplain David McLemore should have been identified as attached to the Army National Guard.

The ABN regrets the errors.

Retirement: a major worry

In a recent survey, Americans said they had two major financial concerns. The first was financing health care. The second major concern was financing retirement.

Money Magazine recently estimated people retiring this year will need 80 percent of their current income. Careful managers may be able to get by on 70 percent.

Planning is essential in order to have adequate income for the retirement years.

Starting after age 30-35 requires additional savings.

Four Retirement Planning Seminars (July 8, El Dorado First Church, 7 p.m.; July 9, Jonesboro Central Church, Jonesboro, 7 p.m.; July 10, Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock, 9:30 a.m.; July 11, Rogers First Church, 7 p.m.) will focus on building retirement accounts. Doug Day, a certified financial planner from the Annuity Board, will lead the seminars.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

Draper nominated

by Linda Lawson
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—James T. Draper Jr. will be nominated to become the eighth president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

A special meeting of the 93-member board of trustees will be called for 1 p.m. Thursday, July 18, in Nashville to consider the nomination of Draper, 55, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, and 1982-84 president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The meeting will continue Friday morning, July 19, if needed.

Wayne Dubose, chairman of the search committee and pastor of Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., said Draper was the unanimous choice of the 10-member committee.

If elected, Draper will succeed Lloyd Elder, who has been president since 1984 and who reached agreement with trustees Jan. 17 to retire by Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after election of a successor. The agreement was reached after a lengthy dispute between Elder and trustees about Elder's leadership at the board.

The search committee was formed Feb. 4 during a regularly scheduled trustee meeting.

Dubose said June 21 the search committee received nominations from about 70 Southern Baptists. They also received other kinds of suggestions from many, including about 170 employees of the board.

In late April, Dubose said the committee conducted a telephone poll of a cross-section of about 100 Southern Baptists.

"We shared the names of the seven or eight persons most recommended to the committee and asked them to give their first, second and third choices among these eight," Dubose continued. "It was significant to our committee that our nominee was the one most desired for the job."

"Jimmy Draper is well thought of by Southern Baptists across this land and is recognized as a person of integrity. Dr. Draper possesses many outstanding qualities that will enable him to give us dynamic leadership as we enter the 21st century," he added.

Draper told Baptist Press he and his wife, Carol Ann, reached a decision June 14 to allow his nomination.

After an initial meeting with the search committee in early May, Draper said he began to see "tremendous possibilities and the potential of impacting Bible teaching and ministries of the board into the future. We began to pray, and God gave us peace. We had a growing awareness of God's

leadership in this possibility."

Draper said church literature produced by the board "is the best there is." Meeting the challenge of competition from other publishers "is a matter of working our strengths and aggressively going out after the market."

He said he believes the 100-year-old church programs and publishing institution with more than 1,800 employees and 17 SBC-assigned programs of work can meet the needs of churches aligned with both sides in the denominational controversy.

"If we stay true to giving adequate exposition of the word of God, I think we will meet the needs of all factions (in the denomination). If we stay true to the assignment of the board to produce the best possible teaching material, I think that will meet the needs of the churches," said Draper.

If elected, Draper, who has been characterized as a reconciler, said he would like to be a unifying force in the denomination.

"I like to think I can help people find common ground and do it without compromise of anyone's convictions. We can find ways to work together, to magnify things to keep us together," he added.

Trustee Chairman Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Clearwater, Fla., said he will officially notify trustees about July 5 of his intention to call a meeting for July 18-19. Bylaws specify a called meeting must be held within 15 days of notification. However, Anderson, who served as an ex officio member of the search committee, said Dubose gave trustees informal information in his letter about meeting dates to enable them to make plans to attend.

Anderson said the called meeting also will include a recommendation to move the Aug. 19-21 scheduled meeting of trustees from Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center to Nashville. That meeting would include an installation service for Draper, if he is elected.

Draper, who has been pastor of the 8,200-member Euless congregation since 1975, earlier was associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., Red Bridge Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., and four other Texas churches.

A Texas native, he is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and holds the B.D. and M.Div. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he currently serves as chairman of the board

of trustees. He holds honorary doctorates from three Baptist schools.

He has held numerous leadership posts at association, state and SBC levels and has written 17 books.

If elected, Draper is expected to assume presidency of the board in about 30 days. Elder's retirement agreement specifies that he would be available to serve as a consultant/advisor to the new president until April 1, 1993.

In addition to Dubose and Anderson, the search committee included; Bobby Welch, vice chairman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.; Mark Brooks, pastor of Elmdale Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark.; Kirk Humphreys, businessman from Oklahoma City, Okla.; Frank Palmer, pastor of Forest Avenue Baptist Church in Redmond, Ore.; Iris White, businesswoman from Columbia, Md.; Bill Wilson, director of the convention ministries division of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; Gene Mims, vice chairman of trustees and pastor of First Baptist Church of Cleveland, Tenn.; and SBC President Morris Chapman.

Three alternates elected to serve if any committee members could not serve included: Gene Swinson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church of Augusta, Ga.; James Hume, pharmacist from Jeffersonville, Ky.; and Danny Strickland, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla.

Chief executives of the board during its first century of service were: J.M. Frost (1891-93, 1896-1916), T.P. Bell (1893-96), I.J. Van Ness (1916-35), T.L. Holcomb (1935-53), James L. Sullivan (1953-75), Grady C. Cothen (1975-84) and Elder (1984-91).

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SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY

Trustees to hear progress

by Herb Hollinger
Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—A special group of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees will meet July 2 to hear progress reports from seminary officials regarding "financial and theological integrity" at the beleaguered school.

The July date was approved at the March trustees' meeting, as was a January 1992 meeting of the same 10 trustees, called "local board members." Apparently, the two meetings are to hear progress reports from the institution regarding finances and theological integrity and then, if necessary, to make recommendations to the regular, full board meetings in October and March.

Specifically, the meeting was called to hear responses to an address in March by President Lewis Drummond dealing with the two critical issues of financial and theological integrity at the school.

However, next week's meeting has generated a number of rumors, according to Academic Dean L. Rush Bush III. The school has received numerous phone calls about the meeting, including whether Drummond was going to submit his resignation, Bush told Baptist Press.

"It would be a complete surprise to me if that happened," said Bush, who reiterated the July meeting was scheduled back in March and for a specific purpose.

"This is not an official meeting of the board of trustees," said Bush. "(The local board members) cannot take official action, they can only recommend to the full board."

Bush did say trustee chairman Roger W. Ellsworth, Illinois pastor, also is planning to attend the meeting. The 10 "local trustees" fit a special category for trustees living within 300 miles of the seminary.

Reports expected to be made at the meeting include a business office examination of the school's finances, especially regarding what would happen if and/or when the seminary funding formula is unfrozen. The SBC Executive Committee froze the seminary funding formula in 1988 for five years. The distribution of Cooperative Program funds to the six seminaries is primarily based on enrollment. Southeastern has suffered a drastic drop in enrollment and would have been financially crippled if the formula had not been frozen.

Costs incurred in the remodeling of the president's home and some expenses related to his office also have drawn criticism from people both within the trustee board and outside the seminary family. It was unclear whether those items also will be discussed at the July meeting.

Bush said his office would make a report dealing with the matter of theological integrity but gave no details.

Asked if the news media would be allowed in the meeting, Bush said the normal procedure of the board is to go into executive session when dealing with personnel matters only. However, since this is not a full board meeting and apparently not scheduled to deal with personnel issues, he did not know if the media would be allowed to cover the meeting.

Later, Ellsworth told Baptist Press the meeting would be open to the media although trustees primarily would hear reports with the possibility of later recommendations.

In a related matter, Baptist Press has learned Wendell L. Page, trustee from Lee's Summit, Mo., has submitted his resignation. The letter was dated June 6 and cited differences with the majority view of the trustees as part of the reason for the resignation.

Ellsworth confirmed the seminary had received Page's resignation and said Page was "very gracious" in his letter. However, Ellsworth said he would rather not comment on the resignation but rather let Page make his own comments.

Page was out of town and unavailable for comment at the Baptist Press deadline.

Input asked on Bennett successor

DURHAM, N.C. (BP)—Recommendations for the successor to President Harold C. Bennett of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee are being accepted now in written form and with full resumes, according to the chairman of the search committee, Julian M. Motley, a North Carolina pastor.

Bennett announced his retirement, effective in October of 1992, at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta earlier this month. He will be 68 at the time of his scheduled retirement.

A 10-member search committee was appointed at that time with Motley, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, named chairman.

"The committee requests the prayers and input of our Baptist people across the convention and asks that all recommendations be in written form and accompanied by resumes containing full biographical and ministry information," Motley wrote in a letter to Baptist Press.

Recommendations should be sent to Motley at P.O. Box 15127, Durham, NC, 27704.

Motley said recommendations will be received through Aug. 1, 1991.

Motley commended Bennett who has been the committee's chief executive since 1979 and will continue as a consultant until Oct. 1, 1993.

"(As president and treasurer) he has served Southern Baptists exceptionally well and in which he continues to command deep respect and appreciation," said Motley. "(The search committee) recognizes the need to facilitate an orderly transition in this critical leadership role in Southern Baptist life."



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Steps forward cited

ATS report favorable toward Southern

by Pat Cole & David Wilkinson
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A covenant between faculty and trustees may represent the "best possible hope for the future" of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a report from a national accrediting agency concludes.

The report from the accrediting commission of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada commends the "Covenant Renewal" document approved this spring by trustees and faculty as a sign of improving conditions at the Louisville, Ky., school.

The commission's report was issued June 21, a month after a two-day "focused visit" to the campus by representatives from ATS and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the seminary's other accrediting agency.

In endorsing the "focused visit" report, the commission acknowledged "the progress that has been made by all parties," citing in particular the adoption of the covenant and the board's amendment of an earlier action allowing tape recorders in all classrooms.

However, it cited "the continued need for monitoring the situation" and called for a series of progress reports from the seminary. The report made no suggestion Southern has been in danger of being placed on probation or losing its accreditation.

Relations between trustees and seminary faculty and administration have been strained since a new conservative majority of trustees pushed through several controversial actions last year. Those actions also prompted the ATS and SACS investigations.

Since a preliminary ATS staff report in January, however, trustees and faculty reached the covenant agreement, spelling out a compromise on employment of future faculty. Trustees in April also voted to leave determination of "appropriate methods of transcribing classroom lectures" with the administration. That action replaced a policy approved last September which would have allowed all seminary classes to be tape recorded. The policy had been termed in January's preliminary ATS report as "a direct intervention of the board" into seminary teaching practices.

The covenant, approved overwhelmingly by both faculty and trustees, effectively replaced trustee action a year earlier which added the 1987 Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee report as a guideline for the employment, promotion and tenure

of all faculty. The action potentially would have required all faculty to subscribe to both the recommendations and the findings of the peace committee report, in addition to adhering to the Abstract of Principles, the theological statement that has governed the seminary since its founding in 1859.

Faculty, however, voted unanimously to urge trustees to rescind the action. The preliminary ATS staff report also questioned whether the board had stepped "well beyond the approved academic personnel policies and the seminary charter and bylaws."

After several months of intense negotiations, specially-appointed trustee and faculty committees drafted the "covenant" document as a compromise proposal. The statement articulates a cooperative effort to steer the seminary in a more conservative direction. It pledges the seminary will seek balanced theological representation on its faculty by filling future openings with "conservative evangelical scholars."

"Perhaps its greatest significance is that it represents some compromise on all sides," the ATS report said of the covenant, adding it "symbolizes hope that all parties want to work together to avoid causing irreparable damage to the institution."

The accrediting commission requested semi-annual progress reports from the seminary between now and late 1992 when Southern is scheduled for its regular re-accreditation visit.

Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt, commended in the report as a "key factor" in progress made at the seminary, described the ATS assessment as a "strong affirmation" of trustees, faculty and administration. "The future hinges on the covenant," he said. "If it is implemented responsibly, as I think it will be, we have plotted a path to a bright future."

Trustee Chairman W. Wayne Allen, pastor of Blairwood Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., said he was "very pleased," noting "the apprehension felt by students and faculty about accreditation problems should be eased if not erased by this report."

Although interpretation and implementation of the covenant remain a challenge, faculty and trustees are "probably closer than the common perception," Allen added.

The ATS report encouraged the trustee board to "continue its own development," including more faculty-trustee dialogue.

Pioneer area needs pastors

The Mount Baker Baptist Association in Washington is looking for pastors to serve in a pioneer mission field. The pastor(s) must be eager to witness, experienced in ministry, and have retirement or other income to enable them to spend time growing and developing a church. Resumes should be sent to Harry Morris, Director of Missions, Mt. Baker Baptist Association, 320 Manito Dr., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273.

D.C. seeks exec

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention is seeking a new executive director. Candidate recommendations should include a letter stating the reasons a person should be considered, a statement that the candidate has given permission for his name to be submitted, and a resume or profile of the candidate.

This information should be sent to Aldon D. Nielson, 519 So. Harrison St., Arlington, VA 22204-1217. The deadline for submitting recommendations is July 12, 1991.



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'Crossover Japan'

by Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

TOKYO (BP)—A "Crossover Japan" evangelistic thrust led 345 people to faith in Jesus Christ, reported leaders of 42 Southern Baptist volunteer teams from the United States that worked in the partnership crusade.

One of the largest evangelistic crusades ever planned by Japanese Baptists, the May 20-June 3 effort involved 139 Southern Baptists from 20 states who worked in 41 Japanese churches and mission congregations. It grew out of Japanese Baptists' goal to increase their churches from 238 to 500 and membership from 28,000 to 50,000 in the next 10 years. The Japan Baptist Convention matched up the volunteer teams with churches.

"'Crossover Japan' exceeded any expectations we had," said missionary Bill Walker, who helped mission volunteer Dub Jackson coordinate the crusade. "It proved that an individual's testimony is still one of most powerful tools Christians have. Regardless of cross-cultural difficulties, the power of the living gospel translates."

The first in a series of annual "Cross Overseas" crusades sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the project involved pastors and lay people from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. The annual partnerships will parallel the "Cross Over America" campaigns, coordinated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Both emphases came from suggestions made by SBC President Morris Chapman.

In "Crossover Japan," each partnership team included a preacher and two or three lay people, such as secretaries, seminary students, businessmen and retirees. Several former missionaries to Japan returned as team members.

Three former missionaries reported at least 30 people accepted Christ in their assigned church during the week, Walker said. Returning missionaries said they "sensed a real change in Japan, a new openness to the gospel, a new warmth in the churches," he said.

More teams went to new church planting situations than is usually the case because



Rain didn't stop volunteer Andrew Wade, a Southeastern Seminary student, from distributing handbills.

33 missionaries in Japan directly are involved in church starts. About one-fourth of the teams were involved in new church situations.

Jackson, a former Japan missionary who spent the past year in the country planning "Crossover Japan," invited the Ohman Brass, a six-trumpet ensemble. It traveled to 10 churches in the Tokyo area, appeared on Japanese television and gave concerts at a school for the blind and several high schools.

A team of volunteers reaching out to the deaf—a first for Japan partnerships—worked in five churches. The team, from the 150-member deaf congregation of Applewood Baptist Church in the Denver area, included two deaf members, Audrey Warden and Robert Payne. Missionary Nan Jordan and Payne's hearing son, Mike, helped interpret for the pair.

"When we had to interpret it was in four different languages: from American sign language to English to Japanese to Japanese sign language," said Robert Payne, who has been deaf since birth. "The Holy Spirit blessed us and worked through us as we did that."

Payne said he thought Japan had only about 25,000 deaf people, but he discovered during his stay 3.4 million Japanese are deaf. Japanese Baptists have no deaf churches and only one church, located in Kyoto, has deaf members who attend regularly.

Speaking at the closing banquet, a former president of the Japan Baptist Convention thanked the American group for their work. Okamura Shouji, pastor of Simura Baptist Church, said six people made spiritual decisions in his church dur-

ing the week-long crusade—the same number usually baptized in his church in a whole year.

"Japanese pastors say churches hit a barrier and partnerships like this help to kick-start them and fire them through that wall," said Walker. "It has something to do with the weight of being in Japan (where many people resist the gospel). It stagnates people, pulling everybody down to the norm. To have an outside charge like this gets us going again."

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LESSONS FOR LIVING

Convention Uniform

Why rebuild the walls?

by Lane H. Strother, First Church, Mountain Home

Basic passage: Nehemiah 4

Focal passage: Nehemiah 4:1, 3-10, 13-23

Central truth: Broken down walls are indicative of broken down lives and God calls us to rebuild these lives.

Chapter 4 of Nehemiah opens with Sanballat holding a conference with his allies. Sanballat of Samaria threatened Judah from the north. Tobiah, governor of the Ammonites, was on the east. The Arabians controlled all of the area to the south. The Ashdodites were the Philistines to the west. On all sides, God's people were oppressed and threatened. Robiah went so far as to ridicule the people of Judah.

Oppression, threats and ridicule lead to depression. God's people, as set out in verse 10, were a depressed people. How did Nehemiah motivate these people who were oppressed, threatened, ridiculed, and depressed? First, he led them in praying to God. Then he took affirmative action. He moved the people behind the wall where they could protect their families, their homes, and each other. He also divided the people so that half of the people worked on construction and half of the people stood guard ready for action. Finally, he established a procedure for the people to respond to a crisis. "In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." Nehemiah began with God and he ended with God.

There are those among us who are oppressed, ridiculed, threatened, and depressed? How are we responding to them? If we follow Nehemiah's lead, we will first go to God in prayer. Then we will take affirmative action to repair the broken down walls in today's society. Finally, we will place our faith in God, knowing that he will see us through any crisis.

A bigger question, however, is "Why did the people need to rebuild the wall?" Did they need the wall for protection or did they need the wall for their own self-esteem? When anyone is in a depressed state, that person's self-esteem needs to be rebuilt. God was rebuilding the self-esteem of his people as they were rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem.

Could God be calling us to rebuild the self-esteem, the hopes and the dreams of his broken down people? I think he is!

Life and Work

God proves himself strong

by Jim Files, Windsor Park Church, Fort Smith

Basic passage: 1 Kings 18:17-40

Focal passage: 1 Kings 18:21, 24, 27-28, 30, 36, 37

Central truth: God demonstrates his commitment to his Word and his servant.

Elijah was called to "stand"—before God, before Ahab, and then before the people. Elijah was called to confront the people with the choice of following the Lord or following Baal. A choice had to be made, and God placed his servant in front of the people to conduct a test (v. 21).

The test was designed to demonstrate the power that resided in "gods" being worshipped, and would be answered by the supernatural response of the most powerful God. The people called on their false gods (v. 28), but there was no answer. False religion involves activity on earth, but no movement from heaven.

As water was poured upon the sacrifice, the wood, and the trench, God was arranging to show that he is not limited. Elijah's obedience indicated his faith and confidence in God's power. Our unbelief is sometimes demonstrated in our schemes and methods to "help" God do his work.

God's desire was to turn the hearts of his people back to him (v. 37). To do this, he used supernatural results to show that he is a mighty God. In today's world we seem reluctant to call upon God to show his power and his glory through miraculous signs. It was God who instructed Elijah to do "all these things" (v. 36).

We live in a day where the spiritual condition of God's people is similar to that of Israel during Elijah's ministry. People are vacillating between two worlds. During Elijah's ministry, God used miraculous events to awaken his people to his power. Elijah stood before the people at God's instruction to demonstrate that he was still able to deliver his people from the power of the enemy. He also demonstrated that he is a living God who is willing and able to turn the hearts of his people toward him. No, he doesn't have to perform miracles to prove his ability, but at certain times he wants to let's repair the altars of the Lord that are "broken down" (v. 30) that we too might see the fire fall from heaven as an indication that our God answers our prayers.

Bible Book

The wisdom of a king

by Marck Gibson, First Church, Jacksonville

Basic passage: 1 Kings 3:7-9, 11-14, 25-27; 4:29-30

Focal passage: 1 Kings 3:7-9, 11-14, 25-27; 4:29-30

Central truth: As kings, God's children must have God-given wisdom.

For Solomon to rule Israel as the God-anointed king would require God-given wisdom. God's children also are kings and must have the same wisdom to fulfill their responsibilities. Solomon's life can teach us six things:

First, we see the need for God-given wisdom (1 K. 3:7-8). Due to his young age, Solomon lacked experience to rule. He was reigning in the shadow of his successful father, David; his brother's supporters opposed him; and God's people were his subjects. We also lack the experience to do what God may require of us. The opposition to our doing God's will is strong. We are involved in the greatest business in the world, and even the smallest responsibility is beyond our human ability to fulfill completely. We need God-given wisdom.

Second, we see the request for God-given wisdom (1 K. 3:9). Solomon demonstrated great human wisdom in seeking God-given wisdom. Harry Truman prayed for this in his inaugural prayer as president of the United States. If we want wisdom, we only have to ask (Ja. 1:5).

Third, we see the gift of God-given wisdom (1 K. 3:11-13). When we seek the right thing first, God gives it and then gives all the rest we might have wanted (Mt. 6:33). God will give us the resources to do his will (Ph. 4:13).

Fourth, we see the use of God-given wisdom (1 K. 3:14). If Solomon would use the God-given wisdom properly, God would lengthen his life and reign. However, Solomon failed to continue utilizing his wisdom, and he lived only 60 years. The use of God-given wisdom is what makes it wisdom. If not used, wisdom could be a curse instead of a blessing.

Fifth, we see the illustration of God-given wisdom (1 K. 3:25-27). It is not having to say later, "If only I had known. . . ." Wisdom is hind sight, beforehand.

Finally, we see the greatness of God-given wisdom (1 K. 4:29-30). The wisdom that God gives is more than sufficient for the task.

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Convention Uniform

The enemy within

by Lane H. Strother, First Church, Mountain Home

Basic passage: Nehemiah 5:1-12

Focal passage: Nehemiah 5:1-12

Central truth: Sometimes church people fail to fulfill the spirit of the law although they follow the letter of the law.

In Nehemiah 5, one finds that God's people were being exploited by their own people. A "great outcry" came from the people because they were having to borrow money at exorbitant interest rates in order to get food. They were given their children as security for these loans, as well as mortgaging their homes, their vineyards, their fields.

Under Hebrew Law (Ex. 22:26 and Dt. 24:10-13), a person was entitled to demand and receive a pledge as security for a loan to a fellow Hebrew. He was permitted to take possession of the pledge and use it. A poor person, who had no collateral or could not meet his financial obligations, was allowed to pledge his son or daughter. The creditor was entitled to claim the services of said son or daughter for a period not to exceed six years (Ex. 21:1-6 and Dt. 15:12-18).

What the Hebrew people were doing to each other may not have exceeded the letter of the law; however, it did violate the spirit of the law. Nehemiah was incensed with this practice of Hebrew people enslaving the sons and daughters of Hebrew people.

When he confronted the offenders, they knew they had done wrong. Nehemiah encouraged all of the people to walk in the fear of God and not in the fantasy of greed. The offenders repented.

That makes a fine history lesson; but, how does it apply to today's world? Are God's people, today, living by the letter of the law and not the spirit of the law? Are husbands enslaving their wives with selected Scriptures? Are church leaders enslaving fellow church members with legalistic interpretations of the Scriptures? Are Christian business people enslaving the poor with high prices or poor quality? Are church members taking advantage of others who are less fortunate? If so, then Nehemiah has a lesson for us today. My prayer is that we will follow Christ's example of living in love and in service to God's people for God's purpose.

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Life and Work

God's amazing grace

by Jim Files, Windsor Park, Fort Smith

Basic passage: 1 Kings 19:1-18

Focal passage: 1 Kings 19:1, 4, 5, 9, 13

Central truth: God always provides grace to stand and to sustain his servants.

As God's spokesman Elijah had witnessed the power of God to bring down fire and to bring down rain on command. He had experienced the heights to which faith in God can lift us. Now, we will see the depths to which one can fall when he puts his faith in people. His expectations of what God could do had been proven accurate, and now his expectations of how people would respond provided a source of discouragement to the prophet.

When Ahab spoke to Jezebel, he did not mention the rain or the fire that God had sent; instead he focused on what Elijah had done to the prophets of Baal (v. 1). The threat of this woman caused Elijah to react in haste. He did not wait on God, but ran from his adversary.

The first symptom of unbelief and despair is a desire to get out of the battle. Elijah had been standing before kings and people to proclaim the power of God, but they seemed to respond with apathy and agitation. He cried, "It is enough!" (v. 4). Elijah was to learn that the results were in God's hands, not in his. When we put our expectations in the response of people we will always be let down.

Now we see how God works in discouraging times. It took God's grace for him to stand before Ahab, and it will take God's grace to sustain him in the face of despair. We would expect a rebuke one who had left his place of service, but instead God sent an angel to minister to Elijah (v. 5). The Lord provided rest and refreshment for Elijah. This "journey" that Elijah had chosen to take on his own was being provided for in God's amazing grace. God did not condone what Elijah had done, but demonstrated that Elijah was not responsible for the results of God's work.

When Elijah moved to Horeb (v. 9), God sent a strong wind that broke the rocks, an earthquake, and a fire. Heshben spoke to the prophet's heart in a still, small voice. Elijah was not moved by the spectacular events, but "when he heard the voice" (v. 13) he wrapped his face. The Lord had visited him (v. 9). He is faithful even when we are weak.

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Bible Book

The work of a king

by Marck Gibson, First Church, Jacksonville

Basic passage: 1 Kings 5:2-7; 6:11-13; 7:1,51

Focal passage: 1 Kings 5:2-7; 6:11-13; 7:1,51

Central truth: Our work for the Lord places demands on us.

Solomon, the King of Israel, knew that God had a work for him to do—the building of a temple. As a king unto God, each Christian has work that the Lord would have him do. As we see in the life of Solomon, the work of the Lord places demands on us.

We must know the work to be done. Solomon knew that his task was to build the temple (1 K. 5:5). "What would God have me to do?" is always a good question to ask. God had given him "rest from his enemies"—not so Solomon would rest, but so he could do the work (1 K. 5:4). God leads his children in knowing what he wants them to do (Ro. 8:14). He also creates within them a desire to do the work and then enables them in doing the work (Ph. 2:13).

We must commit ourselves to do the work for the glory of God. With God's assurance that he would finish the temple (1 K. 5:5b), Solomon committed himself to build it. He "purposed" to do it for "the name of the Lord." We must go beyond just having the intention of doing God's work. We have to commit ourselves to doing it.

We must apply ourselves to do the work. The building of the temple demanded Solomon's full attention. Doing God's work will demand our best, our all. As Solomon did not hesitate to enlist help (1 K. 5:6-7), we will need to draw from all the resources God provides.

We must maintain our walk with God while we do the work of God. God was more concerned about Solomon's walking with him in obedience than he was with the building of the temple (1 K. 6:12-13). Our walk with God must always be our priority. We should not miss a step in walking with God, even it is to do the work of God.

We must complete the work. In only seven years, Solomon completed the building of the temple. He would need 15 years to build his own palace (1 K. 7:1,51). The satisfaction of completing our work for the Lord is its own reward.

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Cholera spread threatens

by Mary E. Speldel

SBC Foreign Mission Board

GUATEMALA CITY (BP)—While the cholera epidemic stalks Latin America, Baptists in Guatemala are bracing for the worst.

Since the epidemic broke out in Peru in late January, it has spread into Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile. So far about 212,000 cholera cases have been reported in South America and about 2,000 people have died. Some health officials predict as many as 40,000 people may die of cholera in the next three years.

And now world health officials warn Central America, Mexico and some areas of the Caribbean also are threatened by cholera.

Baptists in Guatemala are heeding that warning.

A delegation of Guatemalan Baptist leaders recently met with Magda Bianchi de Serrano, president of Guatemala's social welfare program, and another official, the vice minister of health, to discuss cholera prevention. Mrs. Serrano is the wife of Jorge Serrano, Guatemala's first elected evangelical president.

The group wanted to learn the government's plans for cholera prevention and how they might be able to help, said Joe Bruce, director of Southern Baptist mission work in Middle America and Canada. The delegation included Bruce, Don Doyle, chairman of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Guatemala, and three Guatemalan Baptist leaders. The meeting, held in the governmental palace in Guatemala City, was arranged by an evangelical lawyer with ties to the government.

Central America is vulnerable to the spread of cholera because of a lack of sanitation in many areas—especially in rural areas and crowded slums, Bruce said. Since cholera reportedly is transmitted through human waste, it spreads quickly in areas with no sewage treatment or running water. Cholera bacteria contaminate drinking water and food.

If the epidemic hits Central America, "It will spread like wildfire," predicted Bruce, who is based in Guatemala.



A Peruvian woman comforts her husband, ill with cholera. The epidemic is now threatening to spread to Latin American.

(BP) photo / Charles Ledford

To avoid that possibility, Mrs. Serrano and other officials asked Baptists to help in a prevention program of cholera education. Baptists also were asked to prepare to help with medicines and medical personnel if cholera strikes the region.

Guatemalan Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries are coordinating the production of an instructional video and brochure on how to avoid getting cholera.

The video will be produced by Southern Baptist media missionaries. The brochure is being written by David Harms, missionary physician in Honduras.

Both items will be available to Baptists and missionaries elsewhere in Latin America, Bruce said. He expects the video and its soundtrack to be broadcast on television and radio throughout the region.

Meanwhile, Baptists in South America continue to help in the fight against cholera. The majority of cholera cases have occurred in Peru, with about 190,800 reported cases, and Ecuador, with close to 21,000.

In Peru, almost no new cases have been reported on the coast, but cholera has spread into the Amazon jungle, said missionary Hayward Armstrong. In Iquitos, a city on the Amazon River, some 200 people have died.

To help with needs in that region, Baptists are providing 25,000 liters of intravenous fluids, part of a 216-ton shipment of medical supplies sent by Texas Baptists in April. Cholera treatment involves rehydrating patients and fighting the bacteria with antibiotics.

Meanwhile, in neighboring Ecuador, missionary Allen McWhite has been given a clean bill of health after being diagnosed with cholera in late April.

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GUATAMALA

President's wife requests prayer for peace

GUATEMALA CITY (BP)—The wife of Guatemala's president has called on Southern Baptists to pray for peace talks in the 30-year civil war between leftist guerrillas and the government.

Magda Bianchi de Serrano, wife of Guatemala's first elected evangelical president, Jorge Serrano, requested the prayers during a recent meeting with Baptist leaders at the governmental palace in Guatemala City. The Baptist delegation included Joe Bruce, director of Southern Baptist mission work in Middle America and Canada, Guatemala missionary chairman Don Doyle and three Guatemalan Baptist leaders.

The Baptists met with Mrs. Serrano, president of Guatemala's social welfare program, and another official, the vice minister of health, to discuss cholera prevention plans. World health officials predict South America's cholera epidemic will eventually spread into Central America.

During the discussion Mrs. Serrano changed the subject to Guatemala's civil war. Peace talks have been part of her husband's political agenda since he was elected in January, but negotiations so far have been deadlocked, according to news reports.

A second round of peace negotiations between the government and rebels of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union began June 17 in Mexico.

Mrs. Serrano described the unsuccessful peace talks in spiritual terms, saying "the devil had blinded the eyes" of people who were trying to block peace, Bruce said. She asked Southern Baptist churches to join in praying the dialogues would bring "the signing of a just and lasting peace accord" to end the long civil war in Guatemala.

When her husband was inaugurated, he pledged to improve Guatemala's human

rights record by punishing any abusers, no matter who they are.

Bruce promised to pass on Mrs. Serrano's prayer request and offered to pray with her during the meeting. Standing in a circle in the palace, the group prayed for peace in the conflict, which has killed about 120,000 people in Guatemala.

The meeting was a first between Baptist leaders in Guatemala and either of the Serranos, who are Pentecostal.

PHILIPPINES

Volcano delays missionaries

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—A thundering volcano that has forced thousands of refugees on a trek along roads coated in soggy foot-deep ash also has delayed the return of Southern Baptist missionaries from their annual meeting in Baguio City.

Missionaries who must return by air to their assignments were stranded June 17 in Manila, where officials announced the airport would be closed at least until June 19 because of volcanic ash from Mount Pinatubo to the north.

Some missionaries driving home near the volcano saw bridges washed out by mud slides and damage to sugar cane fields. They also saw power lines and rooftops that had collapsed under ash transformed into a sticky goo by heavy rains.

Mount Pinatubo began erupting June 9 for the first time in 600 years. At first scientists feared the mountain might blow apart. But now they say periodic smaller eruptions likely will continue for years, according to news reports.

The third floor of the educational building of Clark Field Baptist Church has collapsed under heavy ash, reported missionary Sam Waldron June 18. The roof of the church's sanctuary has been cleaned to prevent further damage. The church, led by missionaries and attended primarily by U.S. military families, is just outside Clark Air Base, which is buried under 10 to 12 inches of ash.

MK Birthday Prayer Calendar: July

Missionary Kids Attending College in Arkansas

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(Sierra Leone—OBU)

13 Jonathan Gary
(Guadeloupe—OBU)

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(Barbados—OBU)

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